

Message Text

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USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

CINCEUR

CINCLANT

CINCPAC

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0205

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA ON VLADIVOSTOK, STRATEGIC ISSUES

CINCEUR, CINCLANT, CINCPAC, CINCUSNAVEUR, CINCUSAREUR, SHAPE FOR
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1. SUMMARY. BORIS STREL'NIKOV, PRAVDA'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, REPORTS ON JANUARY 7 THAT "THE MAJORITY OF (AMERICAN) LEGISLATORS APPROVE THE RESULTS OF THE VLADIVOSTOK MEETING" ON LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS. THE ARTICLE'S TONE IS GENERALLY POSITIVE BOTH ON AMERICAN REACTION TO THE AGREEMENT AND ON THE AGREEMENT ITSELF. YURI ZHUKOV, ON TELEVISION JANUARY 4, ALSO SPOKE OF SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD. ZHUKOV ALSO SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON REDUCTIONS WOULD BEGIN WHEN THE NEW SAL AGREEMENT ENTERS IN FORCE; AND REFERRED TO THE CHINA FACTOR AS A CAUSE FOR SOME SOVIET RESERVATIONS ON REDUCTION. END SUMMARY.

2. STREL'NIKOV'S ARTICLE PURPORTS TO BE A REFLECTION OF THE DISCUSSION ON CAPITOL HILL ON THE RESULTS OF THE VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT. IT CONSISTS PRIMARILY OF FAIRLY LENGTHY QUOTES BY SENATORS MANSFIEDL ("I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD STOP ON WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED. I THINK STEP BY STEP WE CAN MOVE ON TO A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF REDUCING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NOT MERELY THEIR LIMITATION"), SCOTT AND SPARKMAN, ALL OF WHOM VOICE SUPPORT FOR THE SUMMIT RESULTS. STREL'NIKOV NOTES THAT SENATORS KENNEDY AND MONDALE INTRODUCED A "SPECIAL RESOLUTION" CONCERNING THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD ON STRATEGIC WEAPONS, AND QUOTES EXCERPTS FROM THE ADDRESSES OF THE TWO SENATORS MADE WHEN THE RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED. THE EXCERPTS CHOSE ARE THOSE EXPRESSING UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD, THOUGH NOTHING IS SAID OF THE RESOLUTIONS'S ADVOCACY OF REDUCTIONS IN STRATEGIC WEAPONS SYSTEMS. WHILE REPRESENTATIVES CRAIN, ASHBROOK, AND BLACKBURN, AND OF COURSE SENATOR JACKSON, ARE CITED AS BEING OPPONENTS OF THE THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD, THE GENERAL TENOR OF THE ARTICLE IS FAVORABLE. STREL'NIKOV'S OWN CONCLUSION IS THAT "THE MAJORITY OF THE LEGISLATORS APPROVE THE RESULTS OF THE VLADIVOSTOK MEETING AND WELCOME THE NEW STEP FORWARD IN AN EXTRAORDINARILY IMPORTANT AREA -- LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS". HE ALSO NOTES THAT SENATOR KENNEDY'S MAIL FROM HIS MASSACHUSETTS CONSITITUENTS IS RUNNING ABOUT 80 PERCENT FAVORING, TEN PERCENT OPPOSED, AND TEN PERCENT UNDECIDED.

3. INFLUENTIAL PRAVDA NEWS COMMENTATOR YURIY ZHUKOV, IN ONE OF HIS PERIODIC TELEVISION APPEARANCE ON JANUARY 4, ALSO SPOKE
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UNAMBIGUOUSLY IN FAVOR OF THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT, BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND EQUAL SECURITY, IS OF "GREAT SIGNIFICANCE." HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT "WHEN THE (NEW AGREEMENT) ENTERS INTO FORCE, NEW NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN ON THE SUBJECT OF THE REDUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS -- SOMETHING THE SOVIET UNION HAS LONG PROPOSED. OF COURSE, IT STANDS TO REASON THAT IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS IT WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THAT SEVERAL OTHER POWERS HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THOUGH NOT NEARLY

AS MANY AS THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES".

4. COMMENT: ZHUKOV'S STATEMENT IS THE FIRST ASSERTION WE HAVE SEEN IN SOVIET PUBLIC SOURCE THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON REDUCTION OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS WOULD BEGIN WHEN THE NEW SAL AGREEMENT ENTERS INTO FORCE. HIS ALLUSION TO SOVIET RESERVATIONS ON REDUCTIONS BECAUSE OF THE CHINA FACTOR (THOUGH PRESUMABLY FRENCH AND BRITISH CAPABILITIES ALSO ENTER INTO SOVIET THINKING IN THIS REGARD) CONFIRMS EARLIER INDICATIONS WE HAVE HAD FROM OTHER SOURCES (REF A FOR EXAMPLE).
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